

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your family are well and staying safe.

As you will be aware, schools will reopen to **all** pupils in September 2020. We will be delighted to welcome all children back and want to reassure you that we will be following all government guidance regarding the safe reopening of schools.

Children will be returning to school with a wide range of different experiences during lockdown, and some children will not have attended school since March. We are acutely aware that whilst most children (based on our 1st June re-opening to YR and Y1 pupils) will return to school happily, some children may return to school feeling anxious and worried. Please be reassured that our priority will be ensuring that children start the school year confidently and happily and children's wellbeing will be our initial focus on full re-opening.

The children will be taught in class 'bubbles' and will have contact only with the adults and children in this bubble. Children will be taught some new routines and rules so that we can keep each other safe. As per the DFE guidance, staggered start and end times to the day will continue to be necessary to allow us to get all children into school safely, but we will try **and reduce these alterations to as few as possible**.

I realise that for some of you, the thought of bringing your child back to school after the summer break may feel quite worrying. I want to reassure you that we are already preparing our school to ensure that pupils can return as safely as possible, with the full range of control measures in place.

School will, as it has been since we re-opened to YR and Y1 on 1st June, look and feel a little different. In this letter, I will outline the control measures that will be put in place to minimise any risk to either pupils, parents or staff. We have produced a video to watch with your child showing how they will enter and leave school. Click [here](#) for the Year R video or [here](#) for the KS1 video.

I want to remind you that attending school will be compulsory again in September. This means all children should be in school, unless they are unwell or have a reason for absence that has been agreed.

What measures will be in place for a safe September re-opening to all children?

Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell, ensuring that those who have Coronavirus symptoms or have someone in the household who does, do not attend school.

- Staff and other adults must not come into the school if they have [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#), or have tested positive in the last 7 days.
- Schools must ensure that anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home, to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance](#)
- If a child with symptoms is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door with appropriate adult supervision.
- Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitizer after any contact with someone who is unwell. The area around the person with symptoms must be cleaned with normal household disinfectant after they have left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people

Robust hand and respiratory hygiene

- Children will apply hand sanitizer on arrival at school and before leaving.
- Handwashing will be ongoing throughout the day, before and after breaks, before eating and after using the toilet. Hand gel is available throughout the day.
- Children will be supervised handwashing, ensuring that it is done thoroughly and correctly.
- Children will be reminded of the correct respiratory hygiene, promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Boxes of tissues are provided on each desk and sufficient bins provided in classrooms and around the school.
- Children will wash their hands after sneezing/coughing into a tissue
- Children do not need to wear face coverings to come to school. If you choose for your child to wear one, the child must manage this themselves on arrival at school, washing their hands after removing the covering and placing re-useable masks in their bag to be taken home or disposable masks in the bin.

Enhanced cleaning arrangements

- Cleaning will take place throughout the school day and a deep clean undertaken weekly. This will include more frequent cleaning of rooms, and frequently touched surfaces being cleaned more often than normal.
- Toilet areas will be cleaned throughout the day.
- All cleaning will be monitored and recorded by the site manager.

Minimising contact between individuals and maintaining social distancing

Start & end of the day:

- Children will be taught in their own class 'bubble'. Each bubble or class will arrive and leave school at a specified time to ensure that bubbles do not mix on arrival or departure. (See attached class bubble timetable)
- We would encourage walking to school as far as possible, please ensure that children do not bring scooters or bikes to school as we do not have provision for bubble sized storage for these items and children must not mix between bubbles to access these items.
- Please ensure that, as far as possible, only one adult accompanies/collects your child to and from school.
- As children arrive, they will be welcomed through the gate by Mrs Houghton and the class teacher.
- Children must walk through the gate by themselves applying hand sanitizer on entry, as parents will not be able to come on site, unless invited for a specific meeting, for the time being.
- Children will then walk to a painted spot on the path and once the bubble have all arrived, be lead to their classroom by the class teacher.
- The same system will be used for dismissing children at the end of the day, with children being dismissed to their parent, who will need to stand on the spots by the gate until their child is dismissed to them.
- It will be crucial that children arrive and depart at the specified times for their bubble, to avoid groups mixing. **Gathering at the gates will not be permissible**. Please do not arrive before or after your child's entry/exit times.
- Although class bubbles will start/finish at different times, please be assured that all pupils will receive their full entitlement to education each day.
- If children have siblings within our school both siblings will **arrive at the earliest** and depart at the **latest** of their given times

The school day:

- Staff and older children will be encouraged to socially distance as far as is possible in their class bubbles, Older children in KS1 will be encouraged to socially distance within their bubbles wherever possible although we recognise that the youngest children will not be able to distance – this is acceptable in the government's guidance.
- Children will kept in separate class 'bubbles'. By limiting the number of staff and children in contact with each other to those within the group, reduces the risk of transmission. It also makes it quicker, and easier, in the event of a positive case, to identify those who may need to self-isolate.
- Once in their classroom, the children will be assigned to their designated seating space which will contain all essential equipment in a named wallet. All tables will face the front of the class, so that children aren't facing each other. Two children will sit at each desk.
- Within the class bubble, children will be able to share general resources such as maths resources and books. We will continue to remove any soft toys/ furnishings as these cannot be easily kept clean.

- Class bubbles will not share resources or spaces. Playtimes and lunch times will be staggered so that each bubble plays in a designated space, away from other bubbles. PE lessons will take place outside as far as possible and there will, for now, be no assemblies or collective activities in the hall.
- Outdoor play apparatus, eg the ship, will be out of use.
- Class bubbles will use specific toilet areas, and children will be supervised using the toilets at set times for each bubble. Any child needing the toilet at other times will be supervised by a staff member in the bubble.
- Children will not be using the corridors unless supervised to use the toilets. Coats will be hung on the child's chair in the classroom and water bottles kept on each child's desk. Book bags may be brought in, these will be kept under each child's desk, however, bags need to include only your child's reading book and any homework or letters from home to the teachers. PE kits will not be required in school until further notice.
- Children will not mix bubbles at play or lunchtimes. We will continue to offer children a packed lunch each day which will be a choice of sandwiches or a hot picnic lunch e.g. a slice of pizza or a veggie roll, as well as fruit, desert, cheese etc. Children should not bring in a packed lunch from home unless absolutely necessary e.g. If a child has particular allergies that cannot be catered for.
- Some pupils with SEND will need specific help and support in understanding changes to school life and routines. This will be managed by class teachers and other staff and may involve additional social stories or ELSA support.

Staffing:

- Children will be taught only by their own teacher/TA in their class bubble. The only adults working in year group bubbles will be our HLTAs and TAs with specific roles. Mrs Churcher (speech /Y1) Mrs Harris (ELSA /Y2) Mrs Gheisari (Pupil Premium Year 1) and Mrs Booker (Pupil Premium YR) These HLTAs are assigned to year groups and will teach classes in their year group bubble once per week to release teachers for their statutory PPA time. (Planning Preparation and Assessment)

Reception Children

- In reception, children will not be sat at desks but will have a designated space on the carpet. During the day, children will be able to move around the classroom and play with different resources and toys.
- Reception classrooms will have class resources such as maths resources, and toys that will be shared. These resources will be rotated in class bubbles during the week, to ensure they are regularly cleaned. No resources will be shared across bubbles.
- Resources such as felt tip pens, colouring pencils and paint brushes, will be wiped down at the end of each morning and afternoon session using antibacterial wipes.
- Children in reception will be able to access toilets as and when they need to. Children will be supervised so that children from different bubbles are not mixing.
- For reception children, bookbags will be placed in bookbag boxes outside the classroom in the tent in bookbag boxes.
- Reception classes will all have access to the outside area, although this will be at separate times and in class bubbles. Any outside resources will not be shared across class bubbles.

Use of PPE

The majority of staff will not require PPE beyond what they normally use in their work. PPE is only needed in a small number of cases:

- Where a child in school becomes ill with Coronavirus and only if a 2m distance cannot be maintained. Should this occur, the child would be isolated in a specific medical room until parents arrive.
- Where a child already has intimate care needs, or require first aid, PPE will be used.

Engagement with NHS Test and Trace process

Parents/carers and staff will need to be ready and willing to:

- Book at test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into school if they have symptoms and must be sent home to self-isolate if symptoms develop in school. All children, including those under 5 can be tested.
- Provide details of anyone they have been in contact with should they test positive or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- Self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops Coronavirus.
- Should a pupil be tested, parents/carers should inform school immediately of the result.

Manage confirmed cases of Coronavirus amongst the school community

- Should we become aware that someone who has attended school has tested positive for Coronavirus, we will contact the local health protection team, who will work with us to take all necessary action. They will provide definitive advice to school on who would need to be sent home,. For this reason, we will ensure that clear records are maintained of pupils and staff in each group.

Should there be any outbreak, school would continue to work with the local health protection team, ensuring that swift and appropriate action is taken.

Thank you for your flexibility and support while we work to create a new, safe and supportive 'normal' environment for all of our children. I hope that the measures described above will reassure you that school will be a safe and happy place for your child in September. There will be challenges, for example, around schools having staggered start/finish times for classes, however please be assured that schools/pre- schools etc will try to work collaboratively in relation to this. In the meantime, please contact the school via email or telephone if you have any questions/concerns that you wish to discuss.